

and entitled "In re the matter of the application of H. James McGranaghan for Declaratory Relief."

Your primary question is whether a licensed chiropractor must hold an additional license as a technologist and a technician pursuant to the provision of Chapter 804, Statutes of 1937, in order that he may make chemical tests from specimens of his own private patients in his own private office for his exclusive use in arriving at a proper diagnosis of the physical condition of his patient.

In reply, permit me to state that neither a technologist nor a technician, nor a chiropractor, is permitted under the law to make chemical tests from specimens of anyone in order to make diagnoses of the physical condition of a patient for the purpose of preventing the development of progressive malphysical conditions or alleviating or treating diseases or injuries. In our opinion dated January 26, 1926, addressed to your predecessor, Dr. James Compton, this office indicated that measures used by chiropractic licensees had to be founded upon the theory of chiropractic. According to the controlling cases decided since the rendition of such opinion, the making of a chemical test upon humans is within the purview of the practice of medicine, which is specifically prohibited to chiropractors under the provisions of Section 7 of the Chiropractic Act not quoted by you. Those provisions are to the effect that a license to practice chiropractic "shall not authorize the practice of medicine, surgery, osteopathy, dentistry, or optometry, nor the use of any drug or medicine now or hereafter included in materia medica."

In conclusion, may I point out that while persons who can qualify as technologists or technicians may examine specimens to ascertain the existence or nonexistence of certain germs, virus, bacteria or the like, they may not, as above indicated, go so far as to make a diagnosis of the physical condition of the patient without violating the provisions of the Medical Practice Act. This was particularly held in the case of *People vs. Jordan*, 172 Cal. 391, where the Supreme Court stated:

Diagnosis is as much a part of the practice of medicine as is the administration of remedies, and it is a vastly more important branch thereof because, generally speaking, the treatment of disease is governed by the practitioner's theory regarding its cause. . . . To diagnose a case is as much a part of the practice of medicine as the drawing of pleadings and the giving of advice are parts of the practice of law. . . . It is impossible to disassociate diagnosis from the practice of the art of healing by any physical, medical, mechanical, hygienic or surgical means. It is, therefore, competent for the legislature to permit only those persons who are proficient who have been found to be educated up to certain standards to diagnose "ailments."

Very truly yours,

U. S. WEBB, *Attorney-General*.
By LIONEL BROWNE, *Deputy*.

GENERAL MEETING PROGRAMS: A PLAN FOR LARGER COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETIES

"The Bulletin" of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, in the issue of February 17, 1938, printed the following, on the subject of General Meeting Programs. The plan outlined may have suggestive value to county societies having headquarters in the larger cities:

"Members of the Los Angeles County Medical Association are aware that, in recent years, the fifteen scientific sections and the twelve geographical branches of the Society have taken on increased growth and activity; so much so, that the general meetings of the Association not infrequently have had fewer members in attendance than could be counted at section or branch gatherings.

"This splendid development of the sections and branches should go forward, but on the other hand, the good of the whole should not be lost sight of, in the growth of the parts.

"To promote more interest in the general meetings, the Committee on Scientific Work and Programs, with the approval of the Board of Trustees and Council, proposes during the present year to change the character of the general meeting programs, in the hope of securing a larger attendance and interest. It is concerning these innovations that this letter is written.

"The plan, in short, comprehends brief but to-the-point papers on topics of interest to physicians in general prac-

tice, dealing with phases of scientific and organized medicine. In addition, it is planned to have a buffet supper (no charge) at the end of each meeting.

"Here are more of the details:

"Each regular, general meeting, to be held on the first Thursday of each month, will have a program presented by three speakers from one of the scientific sections, each essayist presenting a paper or talk that will not take longer than fifteen minutes to deliver (essayists' papers may be of any length, but in his presentation, each speaker will take only fifteen minutes for presentation of its 'high-points'.)

"Each of the three topics will be on specialty problems in which men in general practice have an interest. This plan will permit a diversified presentation of three papers in forty-five minutes, with opportunity for discussion in another forty-five minutes (each essayist being requested to send, in advance, carbons of his paper to two friends, who will lead in the discussion).

"In addition, a fifteen minute discussion of some pertinent topic on organized medicine will be given, on subjects such as: County Hospital Problems, Basic Science Act; Anti-Vivisection Initiative; Malpractice Defense.

"Following the completion of the above program, an informal buffet supper will be served at the expense of the Association. Members can go to the table, help themselves to sandwiches and coffee and then move from one group of friends to the other for a half hour or so, and thus promote the friendly and fraternal relationships so necessary in modern day medical societies. Years ago, such buffet suppers were a regular feature of the Association's gatherings and added much to their value.

"Meetings will start promptly at eight o'clock, and the programs be concluded by ten o'clock or before, depending upon the amount of discussion. As to the good fellowship, it to continue as long as the spirit and sandwiches and coffee hold out.

"Also, and by no means the least important, in the months of March, April, and May, special general meetings will be called for the third Thursday evenings, at which the Los Angeles County Medical Association will be host, in turn, to the County Bar, the County Dental and the County Pharmaceutical associations. At these sessions, programs of mutual interest will be given, with talks by members of the professions represented. Of all this however, more later.

"Mention may also be made of a plan that the Committee on Scientific Work and Programs has in mind, to have some well known eastern colleagues, who will have been in attendance at the American Medical Association meeting in San Francisco (June 13-17), to join in presenting a seminar on Saturday morning and afternoon (June 18). If that plan materializes, in due time, special announcement will be made.

"In the meantime, the Association officers ask members to keep in mind the proposed programs, and to give generous aid, through coöperation in attendance and taking part in the meetings."

Before the full force of public health can be realized, we must face the obstacles squarely and resolve to deal with them intelligently. Some of the major obstacles are:

- (a) Public ignorance and indifference.
- (b) Lack of sufficient financial support.
- (c) Political interference.
- (d) Lack of technically trained and experienced personnel.
- (e) The stigma associated with certain diseases.
- (f) Lack of basic public health knowledge on which to build administrative control measures.

It is not necessarily intended that all the items in the foregoing list of obstacles are arranged in the order of their importance, but certainly the last mentioned is the least important, and the first on the list is the most important. When this one is adequately disposed of, (b), (c), (d), and (e) will readily cease to be serious problems. Volumes could be written about each one of these obstacles, but in general their handicapping influences are readily understood and self-explanatory.—The Health Officer.